

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed April 22, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on January 12, 2000, March 31, 2000, June 28, 2001, October 31, 2001, July 1, 2002, December 26, 2002, August 27, 2003, and January 6, 2004. A further Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith and review and consideration thereof is requested.

Claims 1-37 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1-3, 7, 10 and 13 are independent. Claim 3 has been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-23 and 27-37. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

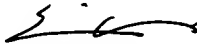
Initially, the Examiner is thanked for granting the Applicant's representative a telephone interview on April 18, 2004. As a result of the interview, claim 13 was amended in an Examiner's Amendment attached to the Official Action mailed April 22, 2004. By the present Amendment, claim 3 has been amended in a similar manner and is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Official Action rejects claims 3, 6 and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, asserting that these claims are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Official Action states that no structure has been recited for the functional limitation "shielded." In response, claim 3 has been amended to recite "a shielding member, wherein the first and nth cylindrical lenses of the cylindrical lens group are shielded from the laser beam by the shielding member for making edges of the emitted laser beam straight lines extending in said second direction." It is noted that this amendment is substantially similar to the amendment made to overcome the

previous § 112 rejection against claim 13. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 6 and 24-26 are definite as amended. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric J. Robinson
Reg. No. 38,285

Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office, P.C.
PMB 955
21010 Southbank Street
Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165
(571) 434-6789